



DELEGATION ENGLISH only
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan to the OSCE
in response to Ambassador Patricia Flor, EU Special Representative for
Central Asia
at the 947th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
11 April 2013**

Dear Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The delegation of Kazakhstan would like to join previous speakers in welcoming Ambassador Patricia Flor, EU Special Representative for Central Asia at today's meeting of the Permanent Council and thank Special Representative for her informative presentation with concrete ideas on strengthening cooperation between EU and Central Asia.

Strengthening the partnership cooperation with the European Union remains a strategic track in our foreign policy. This was confirmed in a recent State of the Nation Address 'Kazakhstan – 2050' delivered by President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Kazakhstan is satisfied with increased number of high-level visits and interaction between officials in Astana and Brussels, including with the outcome of the recent EU – Central Asia Ministerial Meeting held in Bishkek (*November 26-27, 2012*).

We believe that the upcoming visit of H.E. Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission to Kazakhstan in June will provide an excellent opportunity to give a further impetus to the cooperation between Kazakhstan and the European Union.

Government of Kazakhstan is willing to continue our close cooperation under the EU Strategy for Central Asia. We believe that regional projects and events under this Strategy greatly contribute to fostering cooperation between Central Asia states and the EU as well as regional collaboration among Central Asian countries in tackling common challenges in our region such as drugs and arms trafficking, border management, combating terrorism and organized crime, energy, water management, environmental pollution, migration and transport issues.

We express our support to the EU-Central Asia Security Dialogue, scheduled for 13 June 2013 in Brussels. We hope that this event will contribute to reinforcing international and regional security.

The European Union is a leading trade and economic partner of Kazakhstan. The ongoing negotiations on a new Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement reflect de facto strategic level of partnership between Kazakhstan and the EU. We strongly believe that it should be a forward-looking, framework, strategic treaty embracing key areas of our cooperation with the EU. In our view, detalization in this document should be avoided. So that it remains relevant in the future when new cooperation areas emerge.

We hope that Special Representative will support our intention to conclude an Agreement on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation between Kazakhstan and EU, which would encourage tangible steps in this area.

Kazakhstan remains committed to the path chosen from its first days of independence toward greater democracy based on rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Democratic changes began to dominate the social and political life. Kazakhstan's full membership of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) on March 13, 2012 clearly indicates we have reached a decent level of development in the human dimension. But understand we have to go further – and with the help of our partners, including the European Union will do so.

Another not less important issue, which remains to be at the top in our agenda, is visa facilitation issue. We believe signing Agreements on Visa Waiver for Holders of Diplomatic and Service Passports of Kazakhstan and EU nationals will contribute greatly to enhancing cooperation between Kazakhstan and EU.

Mr. Chairperson,

Taking this opportunity we would like to reiterate that bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan is among our highest priorities. Kazakhstan continues to contribute to international efforts to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan, including by hosting the Ministerial conference of the Istanbul process on April 25-26, 2013 in Almaty. In view of the year 2014, all stakeholders should redouble their efforts directed towards preventing deterioration of security in OSCE area, especially Central Asia.

In this vein, I would like to recall initiative of my country, put forward during the OSCE Astana Summit (2010), to create a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security platform. No single State or organization can counter the existing and new challenges to security. Initiatives such as IDEAS and Security Days by the Secretary General identified that our commitment to build a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community should be shared with other international and regional organizations. That is why we suggest creating a platform where relevant security organizations such as

the *UN*, *OSCE*, *CICA*, *EU*, *CIS*, *NATO*, *CSTO* and *SCO* can come together to ensure better coordination in achieving common goals. We hope that this initiative will find support both in OSCE and EU.

In conclusion, let me wish Ambassador Flor every success in her future endeavours.

Thank you for your attention.